SOUTHEAST UNITED STATES HURRICANE EVACUATION TRAFFIC STUDY Evacuation Travel Demand Forecasting System Training Document

Prepared for

Federal Emergency Management Agency

and

United States Department of Transportation

Prepared by

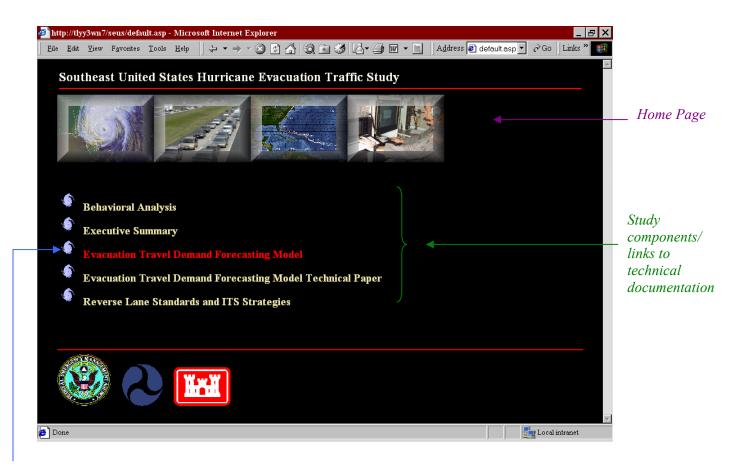
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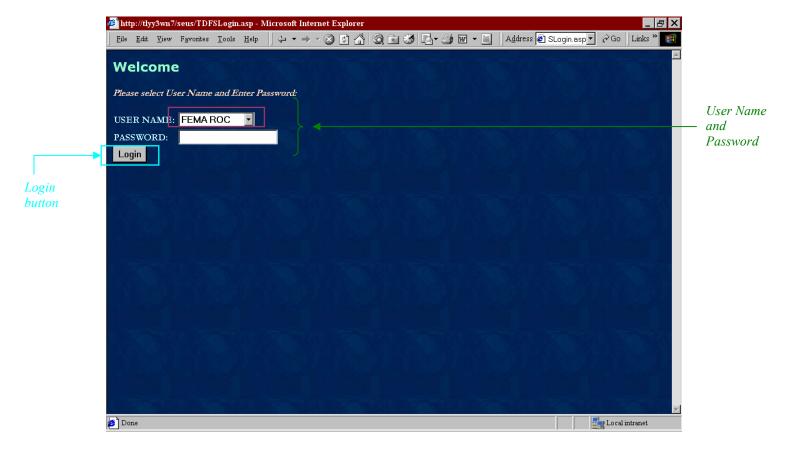
Accessing the Travel Demand Forecasting System

The program may be accessed over the Internet. The WEB address for the home page is www.fematdfm.com. Once at the home page menu, select the *Evacuation Travel Demand Forecasting Model* link to enter the program.

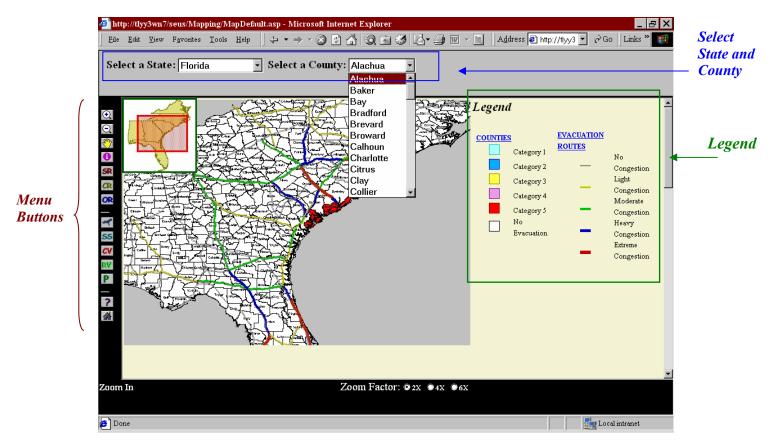


Select the Evacuation Travel Demand Forecast System link

Once the Evacuation Travel Demand Forecasting System link is selected a log-in screen will appear. Using the pull down menu select the user name. The user name are listed by agency or state. The passwords have been established and will be distributed to each agency or state. Lastly, click on the Login button to enter the program.



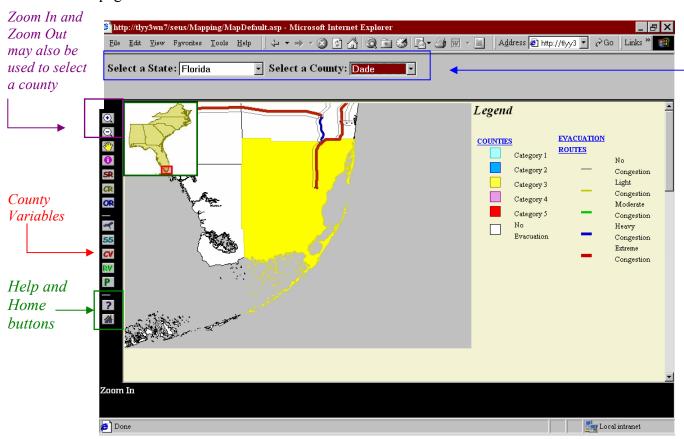
Once there is a successful log in, the main map screen will appear. This is the screen from which the application is driven. The map displayed on this screen will show those counties whose data has been committed by storm category (category of storm is based on inputted information). Also, roadway volumes will be displayed based on congestion levels. A legend to the right of the map describes the colors displayed on the map.



Entering Evacuation Variables as Inputs

Each county must commit data for the model to forecast traffic volumes. The data are committed using the *County Variable* menu button. The button is only available once a county is selected on the main map screen map.

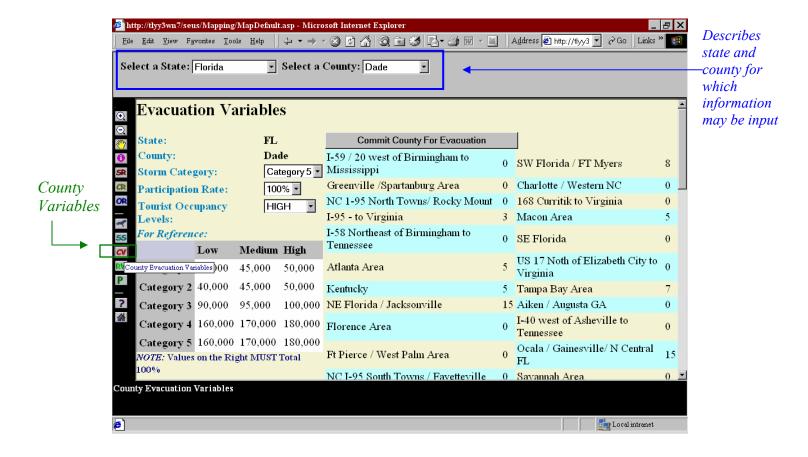
There are two ways to select a county. One is to select a state of interest and a county from the pull down menu on the upper left hand side of the screen. The second way is to select a county by using the *Zoom In* and *Zoom Out* function on the right hand side of the screen. Click on *Zoom In* and then click on the county of choice on the map. This process is continued until a desired viewing level is reached. A *Help* button is available at all times that links to this User's Manual. Also, the *Home* button is a link back to the home page.



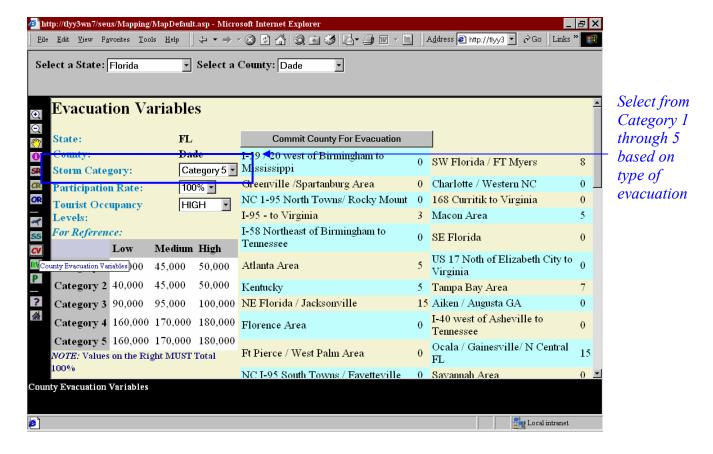
Select State and County from pull down menu

Once a county has been selected it is highlighted in yellow. Also, the *County Variables* menu button is available. Select *County Variables* from the menu bar to enter data to commit a county.

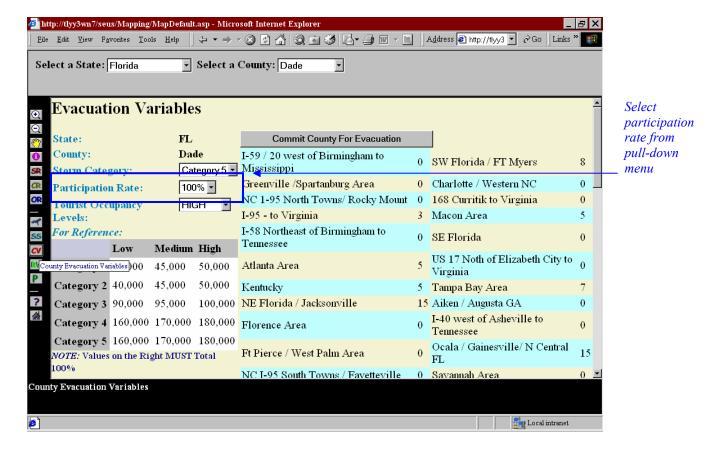
The *County Variables* screen allows for county data to be committed. The state and county selected are listed on the left side of the screen for reference.



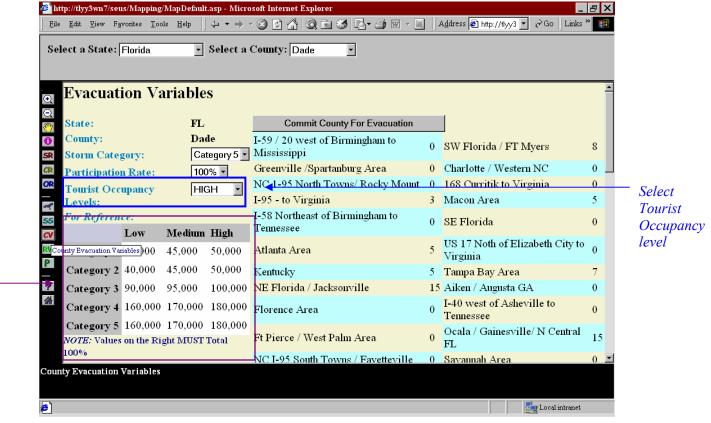
The first input variable category of storm. Select the category of storm for which an area is evacuating.



The second input is the participation rate. The participation rate refers to the compliance rate for the percent of the population that is actually believed to be evacuating.

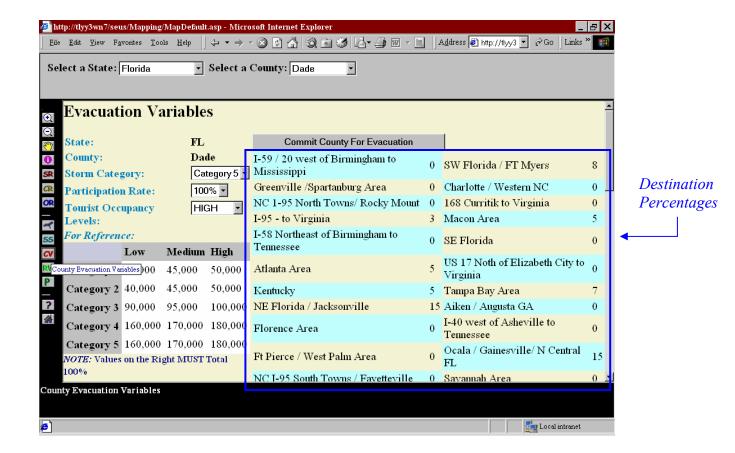


The third input *County Variable* is tourist occupancy. Low, medium or high must be selected based on the current tourist occupancy of an area. A reference table is list below showing for a particular county the difference between low, medium, and high occupancy.

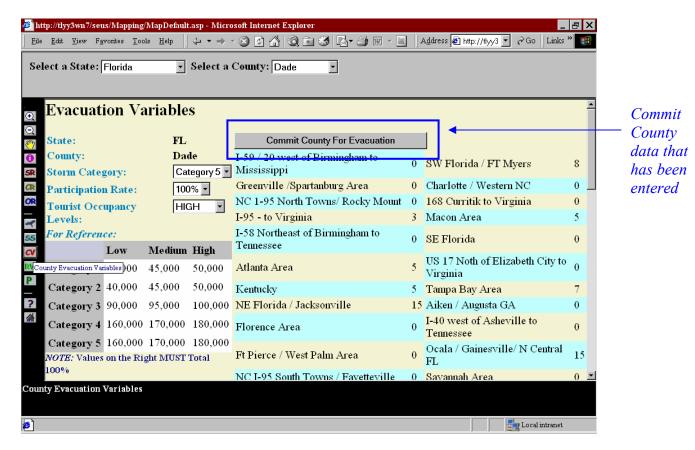


Reference table showing differences between low, medium, and high tourist occupancy

A final input for *County Variables* are destination percentages. Sets of default destination percentages have been established for each county. Even though these variables may be edited, it is highly discouraged. These destination percentages have been established based on behavioral analyses.



Once the necessary *County Variables* have been entered, the county data may be committed. A button labeled *Commit County for Evacuation* may be clicked on and the application will then apply the variables to the roadway network. These variables may be changed at any time. The user may return to this screen and reselect the input variables. Once *Commit County for Evacuation* is chosen, the model will recalculated roadway congestion based on the new information.

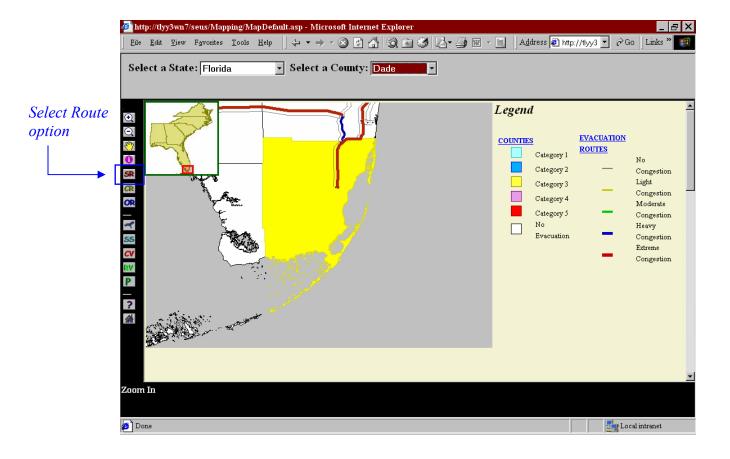


If a county needs to be uncommitted at any time, No Storm should be selected from the Storm Category pull-down menu. The model will then recalculate traffic volumes based on the new information.

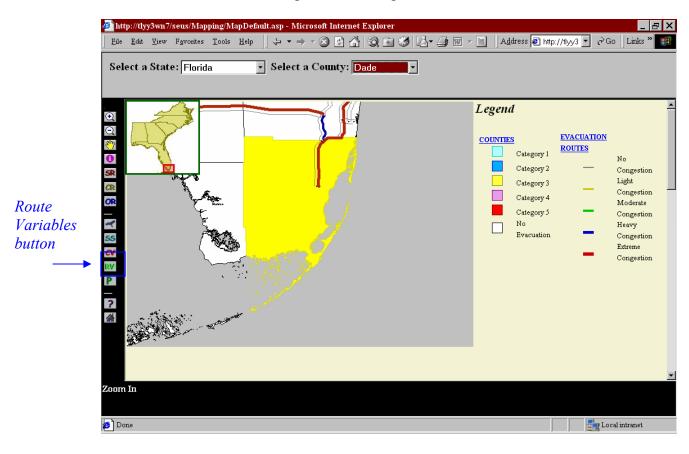
Other Variables

Another variable that may be inputted is *Route Variables*. *Route Variables* contain information about a particular roadway segment to be changed and/or add traffic count information. This may be done at any time whether a county has committed data or not.

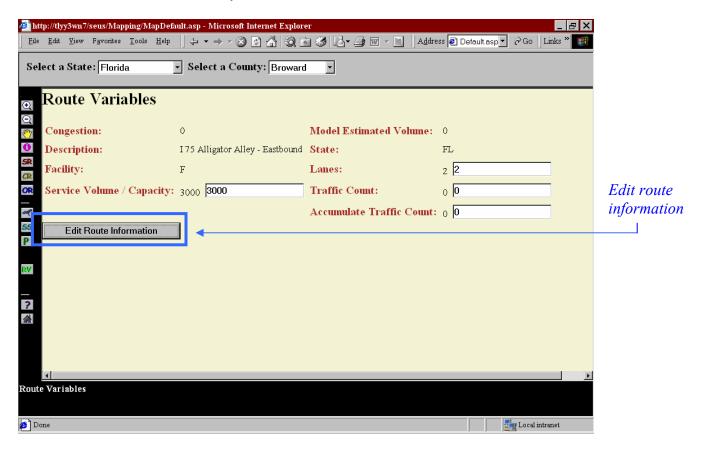
A route must be selected to access the *Route Variables* screen. Select a route by choosing the *Select Route* button and clicking on the desired route. Depending on how zoomed in or out the map is will determine how many routes are selected. Selected routes will be highlighted in yellow. **Only one route may be selected at a time to view in the Route Variable screen.**



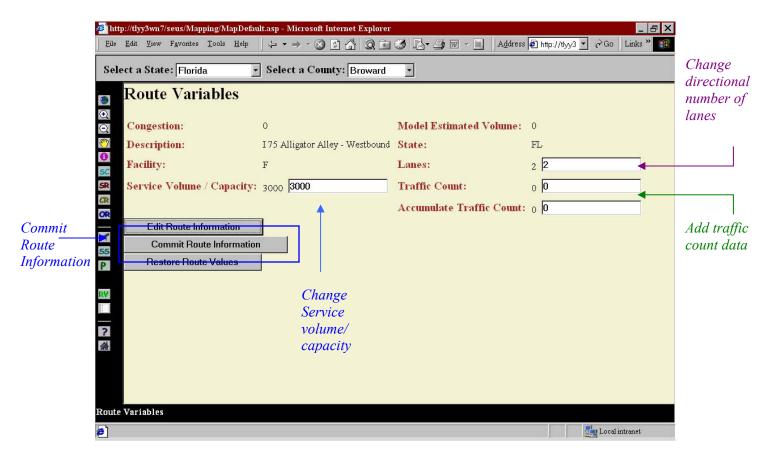
Once the route is selected, the *Route Variables* button is available on the menu bar. Select the *Route Variables* button to go to the editing screen.



Once in the *Route Variables* screen, two variables may be edited and one added. To edit variables, select the *Edit Route Information* at the bottom left side of the screen.



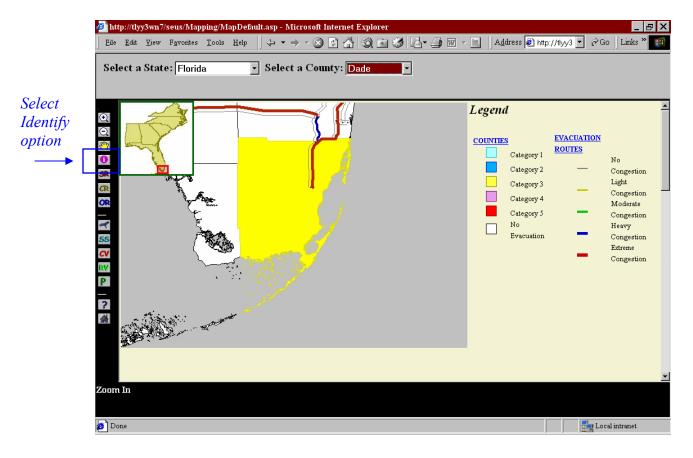
Once *Edit Route Information* is selected, three fields may be edited. One is the service volume/capacity. This allows the user to increase or decrease capacity on the roadway segment. Also, directional number of lanes may be changed. The variable that may be added is traffic count. Every time a traffic count is added, the accumulated traffic count field will keep track of the total traffic count since the first entry.



Once the variables have been entered, the new route information may be committed by selecting the *Commit Route Information*. The impact of the changes may be viewed on the main map screen by selecting the Map button on the menu bar. If the original values need to be restored, a *Restore Route Values* is available. This option will restore the default values at any time no matter how many changes have been made.

Analyzing Output

There are several ways to analyze output. One is to view the data that has been committed. This may be done from the main map screen. This screen will display the counties that have been committed and the roadway congestion. A legend is to the right of the map. Select the *Identify* button and then the county for which the data is to be viewed.



The screen will display the data for the selected county.

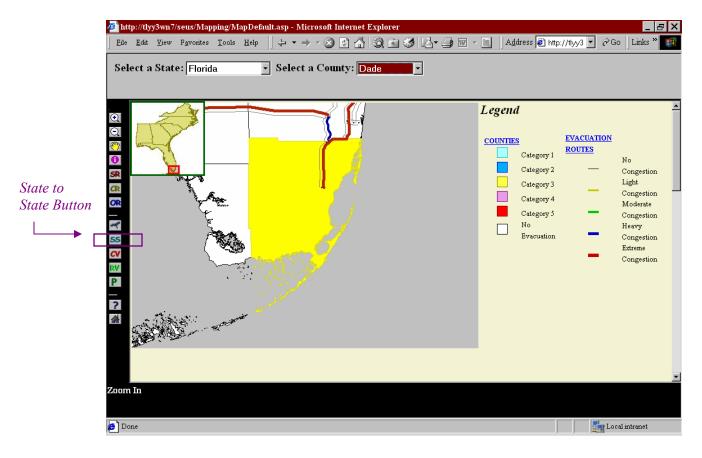


If route information is also desired, then a route must be selected. The number of routes that are included in the *Identify* report depends on how far the zoom is extended.

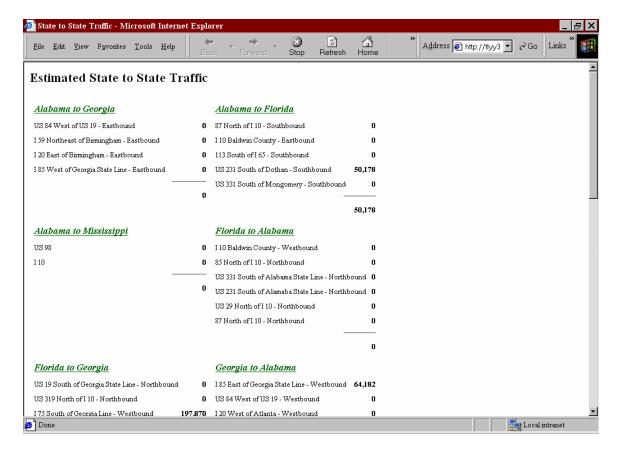


State to State Data

Another output available is State to State data. The *State to State* button is located on the menu bar of most screens. Once the *State to State* button is selected, a table will show the total evacuating traffic volumes crossing state lines. This information will be for all counties with committed data.

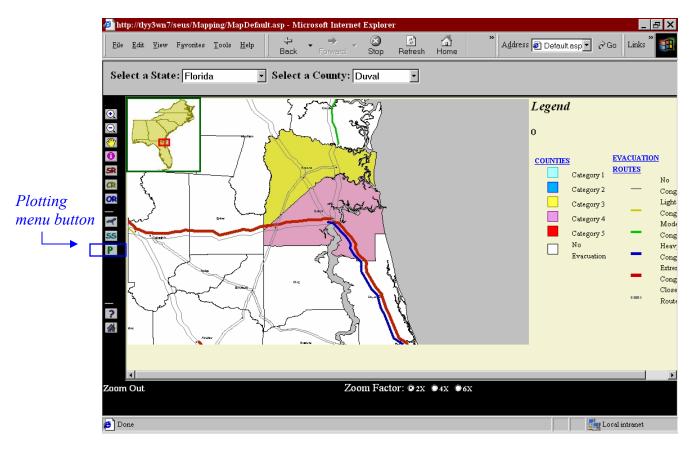


The State to State data table shows directional traffic volumes for all roadway segments that cross state lines in the model.

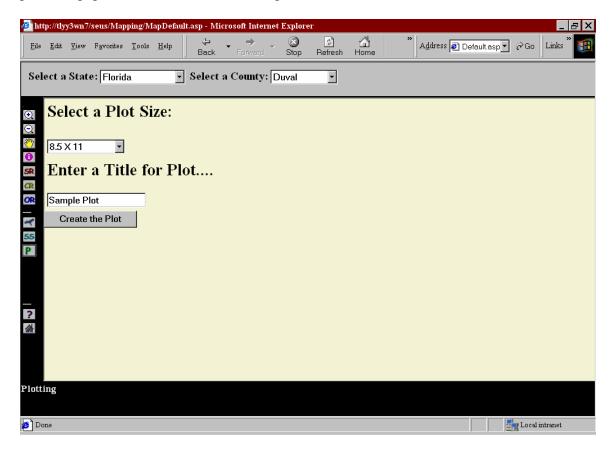


Plotting

Plotting is a capability that allows for hard copies of the data to be produced for analysis. The map on the main map screen may be plotted at anytime using the *Plotting* button on the menu bar. The map in the view will be plotted as is.



Once the *Plotting* button has been selected, two inputs are necessary. One is to select the plot size/paper size. The second is to input a title.



The plot will include the legend that is on the main map screen.

